

REMARKS

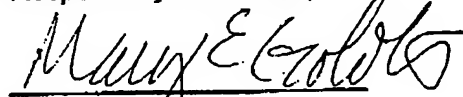
Upon entry of the present amendment claims 1-17 and 19-24 are pending in the application. Claim 18 has been canceled. Claims 1-17 and 19-24 have been amended in accordance with the requirements of U.S. patent practice. No new claims have been added. Applicants respectfully request entry of this preliminary amendment.

(Practitioner's Docket No. PAT 00376/BC1-0050)

CONCLUSION

Applicant(s) respectfully submit that the Application and pending claims are patentable in view of the foregoing amendments and/or remarks. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. As always, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the Undersigned by telephone if direct conversation would be helpful.

Respectfully Submitted,



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